

NOTES AND NEWS

FRANK SLATER DAGGETT, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Redlands, Cal., April 5, 1920, at the age of 65. He went to Riverside to attend the sunrise Easter services at Mount Rubidoux and shortly after returning to Redlands with members of his family and friends he was taken ill and died early Easter Monday.

Mr. Daggett was born at Norwalk, Ohio, January 30, 1855. He became interested in birds at an early age and was elected an Associate of the A. O. U. in 1889 and was one of the first advanced to the class of Members when that class was established in 1901. When first identified with the Union he was living at Duluth, Minn., but in 1895 he moved to Pasadena, Cal., where he remained until 1904, when he returned East and engaged in business in Chicago until 1912. He then took up his permanent residence in Los Angeles and became Director of the Museum of History, Science and Art, a position which he retained until his death. Under his management the Museum has developed rapidly until it has become one of the leading institutions of the kind in the West. It is perhaps best known on account of its wonderful collection of Pleistocene fossils obtained from the asphalt pits of the Rancho La Brea on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Excavations in these beds began in 1906 under the direction of Dr. John C. Merriam and continued with great success for several years. In 1913 the owner of the property, Mr. G. Allan Hancock, generously granted to Los Angeles County the exclusive privilege of excavating for a period of two years with the understanding that the specimens secured would become the property of the Museum where they now form the Hancock collection. These fossils constitute perhaps the largest collection of Pleistocene material in the world and in addition to sabre tooth tigers, ground sloths, elephants, mastodons and other mammals include the remains of about 60 species of birds of which the most remarkable are an extinct Peacock (*Pavo californicus*) and several peculiar vultures and eagles belonging to the genera *Teratornis*, *Cathartornis*, *Pleistogyps*, *Neophrontops* and *Morphnus*.

Mr. Daggett's contributions to ornithology appeared chiefly in 'The Auk' and 'The Condor.' He was not a voluminous writer and most of his papers comprised notes on the occurrence of rare or interesting species or observations based on his own field experiences. He was, however, a man of broad vision and occasionally expressed his views on general questions as exemplified by his notes on accuracy in local lists, the membership of the A. O. U., and the proper limits of the Check List of Birds. He was a man of charming personality, quiet, affable and tactful but at the same time forceful and a good administrator. For several years he served as Highway Commissioner of Los Angeles County and in 1916, when the asphalt beds of Rancho La Brea comprising a tract

of 32 acres were presented to the county for a park, to be known as Hancock Park, the work of development was placed under Mr. Daggett's direction. He was an active member of the Cooper Ornithological Club for 25 years and when Vice President of the Southern Division in 1900 his portrait was published in 'The Condor' (Vol. II, p. 9). In recognition of his ornithological work his name is now borne by two California birds (*Sphyrapicus v. daggetti* Grinnell and *Morphnus daggetti* Miller), but his greatest monument will always be his work in connection with the Museum and its collection of fossils from Rancho La Brea. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lelia Axtell Daggett, of Los Angeles, a daughter, Mrs. Paul Stuart Rattle, of Cynwyd, Pa., and two brothers who reside in the East.—T. S. P.

HORACE WINSLOW WRIGHT, since 1902 an Associate of the American Ornithologist's Union, died on June 3, 1920, at his summer home in Jefferson Highlands, among the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Born at Dorchester, Mass., June 21, 1848, the son of Edmond and Sarah A. (Hunt) Wright, he graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1869. The year following, he entered the New Church Theological School, then in Waltham, where he completed his preparation for the ministry in 1873, and was at once made minister of the New Jerusalem Church (Swedenborgian) at Abington, Mass. In 1876, his decided literary tastes induced him to relinquish his ministerial work, and in 1878, he was made President of the Abington Public Library, an office which he held until 1892. Magazine-indexing and the revising of Latin translations, mainly theological occupied much of his time during the years from 1879 to 1896, and he prepared a catalogue of the Abington Public Library.

A summer's residence at Jefferson Highlands for five months of each year since 1882, gave him opportunity for a closer enjoyment and appreciation of Nature, an opportunity of which his more ample leisure in later years allowed him to make much avail. So arose his active interest in the observation of birds, a pursuit that became, in the last quarter-century of his life, an absorbing passion, leading him to devote much of his time to systematic rambles by field, wood and shore, eager to see and record the bird-life about him, finding in this a constant source of delight and profitable adventure. To his enthusiasm he added a painstaking care in observation and quickly developed skill and accuracy in field-study. In 1902, he became a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club of Cambridge

During these later years he spent the winter and spring months in Boston, when it was his almost daily custom to visit favorable spots of the near-by region and to keep an accurate record of the numbers and local movements of birds seen. Being much abroad and in widely varied areas, he was frequently able to note unusual birds, the records of which appear in sundry shorter communications to 'The Auk,' beginning in 1905, with a brief account of an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker seen on successive days in Belmont.

The Boston Public Garden and Common,—a green sanctuary in the heart of the roaring city,—he discovered to be a favorable stopping-place for migrating birds; and for a period of years he kept an accurate record of the numbers and species seen there in the course of daily visits during the spring and fall. A summary of his observations here, he finally published in an attractive little volume entitled *Birds of the Boston Public Garden* (Boston, 1909),—a valuable contribution to the study of migration and local movements of birds. On these early-morning tours of the Garden, he was often joined by other bird-lovers—men and women, city-dwellers, whom he inspired with his own zeal to seek recreation and profit from a brief association with birds. His kindly spirit invited all interested to share with him in these walks, until of recent years it was a familiar sight to those passing betimes through the Garden, to see him leading an eager group of men and women from spot to spot, halting here and there to focus their attention upon some feathered mite, all unconscious among the trees or shrubs. Indeed, so many availed themselves of his friendly company on these occasions that he had almost become a Boston institution. Many will date their first knowledge of birds from these quiet-hour observation walks with Mr. Wright.

In 1911, he published a carefully annotated list of the 'Birds of Jefferson Highlands,' with notes covering a considerable period of years; and subsequently a valuable series of shorter contributions came from his pen, dealing chiefly with the occurrence of interesting species. Of special note, were two papers on the relative order in which the commoner species of birds begin and end their daily song-periods in the breeding-season.

Unassuming and gentle by nature, he yet possessed a quiet dignity and a clear sincerity which at once commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. Though he never married, he was of eminently social instincts, delighting in companionship and ever thoughtful of others. For him the fevered activity of modern life held no attraction; but in the serene and quiet atmosphere of scholarly pursuits he found life's satisfaction.

GLOVER M. ALLEN.

DR. THOMAS McADORY OWEN, Director of the Department of History and Archives, State of Alabama, died of apoplexy at Montgomery, Alabama, March 25, 1920. He was in the 54th year of his age, having been born at Jonesboro, Alabama, December 15, 1866. Dr. Owen was a subscriber to 'The Auk' and his name had been proposed for membership in the American Ornithologists' Union. He took a deep interest in natural history and as a result of this interest established under his Department a local collection of mounted birds in the State Capitol. His reputation as a historian was firmly established and at the time of his death he was working assiduously on a Memorial History of Alabama. In connection with his work on the history of the State he had planned to issue in his

Department a series of reports on the local natural history, the first of which is to be the 'Birds of Alabama,' by Arthur H. Howell of the U. S. Biological Survey. This is now in the hands of the printer and is expected to be published soon.

A. H. H.

DR. CHARLES GORDON HEWITT, Consulting Zoologist of the Department of Agriculture of Canada, who was elected an Associate of the Union in November, 1918, died of pneumonia at Ottawa on February 29, 1920. He was the son of Thomas Henry and Rachael Hewitt and was born near Macclesfield, England, February 23, 1885. His early education was received in the Macclesfield grammar school and later in the University of Manchester, where during his college course he took first class honors in zoology. In 1904 he was appointed by his Alma Mater assistant lecturer in zoology and two years later lecturer in economic zoology. In 1908 he organized a committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Board of Agriculture, known as the Economic Ornithological committee, for the investigation of the food of British birds, and began an experiment which proved successful in using nesting boxes to attract birds to an area near Manchester which was infested with the larch sawfly.

When only twenty-four years of age he received the appointment of Dominion Entomologist and arrived in Canada September 16, 1909, and in 1910 was elected vice-president of the Ontario Entomological Society. While his interests were primarily in entomology, Dr. Hewitt was a broad and unusually well-informed zoologist. He published a number of papers on entomology and economic ornithology, but his most important work was in connection with the treaty for the protection of migratory birds in the United States and Canada. It was largely through his diplomacy, energy, and enthusiasm that the negotiations in Canada were conducted so expeditiously and successfully. As Secretary of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, organized in 1916, he took an active part in the broader questions of conservation and was interested in the establishment of bird and game refuges.

Dr. Hewitt was peculiarly well qualified for his special field of activity by his quiet, tactful manner, his broad vision, and his practical knowledge of economic zoology. His death at this time when his work was so successfully under way is an irreparable loss to the cause of conservation.—
T. S. P.

DR. JOHAN AXEL PALMEN, of Helsingfors, Finland, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on April 7, 1919, in his 74th year. He was born November 7, 1845, and when elected to the Union at its first meeting he was one of the youngest Corresponding Members.

Dr. Palmén devoted much attention to the fauna of Finland, on which he published a number of papers, but he was distinguished chiefly as a contributor to the subject of bird migration. His early papers were devoted mainly to birds and one of the first was his work on migration which appeared in Swedish under the title 'Om Foglarnes flyttningstvågar,' Helsingfors, 1874. It attracted little attention until it was translated into German two years later under the title 'Ueber die Zugstrassen der Vögel,' when it was widely noticed. An elaborate criticism by E. F. von Homeyer induced Palmén to publish an 'Antwort' in 1882. Two other extended papers should also be mentioned, namely his 'Geographische Verbreitung der Hühner, Sumpf- und Wasservögel im faunistischen Gebiete Finnlands,' which appeared in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' in 1876 (pp. 40-65), and his Report on the Migration of Birds published in German for the Second International Ornithological Congress held at Budapest in 1891. An English translation of this 'Report,' by C. W. Shoemaker, appeared in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1892 (pp. 375-396), and is the only one of his migration papers which is generally accessible to American readers. Dr. Palmén was a pioneer in defining the 'fly lines' or 'migration routes' of birds and the map which he published in his 'Zugstrassen' showing the principal routes in the Palaearctic region has been the cause of some misunderstanding on the part of those who have not taken the trouble to ascertain his real views. This misunderstanding is explained in his Report of 1891, which is an admirable summary of the work on migration done in Europe down to that date.

In honor of his 60th birthday in 1905 a 'Festschrift' was published in two volumes, containing his portrait and 18 papers and monographs by his students and colleagues.—T. S. P.

Dr. E. W. NELSON, chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, announces that the Bureau has assumed the work formerly carried on under the auspices of the Linnaean Society of New York by the American Bird Banding Association. In taking over this work he says that the Bureau feels that it should express the debt that students of ornithology in this country owe to Mr. Howard H. Cleaves for the devotion and success with which he has conducted this investigation up to a point where it has outgrown the possibilities of his personal supervision.

Under plans now being formulated this work will result in valuable information concerning the migration and distribution of North American birds which will be of direct service in the administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as well as of general scientific interest.

It is desired to develop this work along two principal lines:—first, the trapping and banding of waterfowl, especially ducks and geese, on both their breeding and winter grounds; and secondly, the systematic trapping of land birds as initiated by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, the early

results of which have been published by him in the 'Proceedings' of the Linnaean Society of New York, No. 31, 1919, pp. 23-55. It is planned to enlist the interest and services of volunteer workers, who will undertake to operate and maintain trapping stations throughout the year, banding new birds and recording the data from those previously banded. The results from a series of stations thus operated will undoubtedly give new insight into migration routes; speed of travel during migration; longevity of birds; affinity for the same nesting-site year after year; and, in addition, furnish a wealth of information relative to the behavior of the individual, heretofore impossible because of the difficulty of keeping one particular bird under observation.

The details of operation are now receiving close attention, and as soon as possible the issue of bands will be announced, with full information regarding the methods to be followed and the results expected. In the meantime, the Biological Survey will be glad to receive communications from those sufficiently interested and satisfactorily located to engage in this work during their leisure time, for it is obvious that a considerable part must be done by volunteer operators. It is hoped that a sufficient number will take this up to insure the complete success of the project.

EVERYONE interested in the protection of birds will rejoice in the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States upholding the legality of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The action came in connection with an appeal from the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Missouri, in a case already mentioned in these columns and seems to settle once for all the right of the United States to supersede the individual States in legislation regarding migratory birds.

The last paragraph of the opinion is worth quoting:

"Here a national interest of very nearly the first magnitude is involved. It can be protected only by national action in concert with that of another power. The subject matter is only transitorily within the State and has no permanent habitat therein. But for the treaty and the statute there might soon be no birds for any powers to deal with. We see nothing in the Constitution that compels the Government to sit by while a food supply is cut off and the protectors of our forests and our crops destroyed. It is not sufficient to rely upon the States. The reliance is vain, and were it otherwise, the question is whether the United States is forbidden to act. We are of opinion that the treaty and statute must be upheld."

THE PERMANENT FUNDS OF THE A. O. U.—From time to time the Union has established several permanent funds for special purposes. In every case the principle with such contributions as may be received is invested so as to remain intact and the interest only is used for furthering the objects of the fund. The most important of these funds are: the Brewster Memorial Fund, the Research Fund, and the Publication Fund.

THE Brewster Memorial Fund, the most recent, is the gift of the friends of William Brewster to perpetuate the memory of one of the founders and former presidents of the Union by establishing a fund to encourage research in American ornithology. The sum of \$5200 received in 1919, has already increased to some extent and the proceeds will be awarded biennially in the form of a medal and an honorarium to the author of the most important contribution to the ornithology of the Western Hemisphere during the two years immediately preceding. This fund administered by a special committee and the first award will be made in 1921.

The Research Fund was established some years ago by a gift from Miss Juliette A. Owen of St. Joseph, Mo., one of the Life Associates of the Union, to encourage original research in ornithology. It now amounts to several hundred dollars but the interest will not be available until the total amount reaches \$5000. It is highly desirable that this fund should be increased at an early date so that the proceeds may become available for promoting ornithological work. Already applications have been received for assistance in special investigations which would be greatly stimulated if small grants could be made from this or some similar fund.

The Publication Fund comprises receipts from life memberships, bequests and special contributions. In 'The Auk' for January, 1920, the Editor has called attention to the immediate need of a fund of \$25,000 and in response to this appeal subscriptions of several hundred dollars in sums of \$100 or less have already been received. These subscriptions may be paid in Liberty bonds, or otherwise, in one payment or in several annual or semi-annual instalments. Not only is an adequate fund necessary to place the publication of 'The Auk' on a permanent basis and to issue check-lists, indexes and special bibliographies, but means should be provided also for publishing occasional memoirs, monographs and more extensive papers than have hitherto been attempted. At this time when the usual channels of publication are becoming restricted on account of the high cost of printing it is especially desirable that the A. O. U. should be in a position to meet the demands which are made upon it. As its permanent funds increase the Union will be able to broaden the scope of its work and to make more substantial contributions both to the development and diffusion of knowledge of ornithology.—T. S. P.

THE annual general meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held on March 10, 1920. Thirty-eight members were in attendance with the President, Dr. W. Eagle Clarke, in the chair. Forty new members were elected and Dr. P. R. Lowe was chosen to fill a vacancy in the Committee. The officers of the B. O. U. are not elected annually as in the A. O. U., so that there was no change. A new rule was adopted whereby a committee of nine be elected to report from time to time on the authenticity of the reports of any rare or hitherto unknown bird visitors to Great Britain, and another for the increase of the initiation fee and the price of 'The Ibis.' An amendment to the former proposition to authorize the com-

mittee to keep the British List up to date, as the A. O. U. Committee is supposed to do with the North American List, was voted down.

The report of the Committee was taken up almost entirely with the question of meeting the increased cost of 'The Ibis' which now amounts to £1000 a year. It is hoped that by the doubling of the initiation fee, making it four pounds, increasing the subscription price of the journal and materially augmenting the membership to avoid the necessity of increasing the annual dues which are now one pound five shillings. The question of publication is an international one and the members of the A. O. U. will find much food for thought in this report as the same problem is constantly before us in regard to 'The Auk.'

In making comparisons it must be borne in mind that while 'The Ibis' publishes more pages per year, there are more words per page in 'The Auk,' so that by careful count it will be found that the total amount of reading matter for some years back is nearly the same in each and the number of plates about equal, although 'The Ibis' has many more of its plates colored. The price of 'The Auk,' however, is less than half that of 'The Ibis.' Of especial interest to those who have the responsibilities of 'The Auk' upon them is the statement that the trustees of the British Museum contributed £250 toward the cost of publishing Museum articles in 'The Ibis' and it is hoped that this contribution will be an annual one. Not a few papers appear in 'The Auk' which exploit the collections of various of our Museums as well as State and National Departments, toward which they have contributed nothing. The possibility of assistance along this line is well worth considering.

THE January number of 'The Emu' contains an interesting account of the congress of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, the first since 1914, which was held in Queensland and lasted a fortnight from September 23 to October 8, 1919. The meeting convened in Brisbane, where three days were devoted to the transaction of business, presentation of papers, and visits to points of interest in the vicinity. The week-end from Friday to Monday was given up to a camp out on Stradbroke Island in Moreton Bay, where 75 or more species of birds were observed. On September 30 about 40 members of the Union left for Dalby, about 150 miles west of Brisbane, and the next day went into camp in the Bunya Mountains. The camp was located about 30 miles from Dalby at an elevation of 3000 feet at the base of Mt. Mowbullin, the highest peak in the range. The week from October 1-8 was spent in observing, collecting, and exploring the neighboring region and in the evening talks were given around the camp fire. More than 50 species of birds were observed among which Rifle Birds, Regent Birds and Satin Bower Birds were numerous near camp. A National Park of 13,540 acres has been established in the Bunya Range and the R. A. O. U. recommended that the entire range be included in the reservation. Immediately following the meeting steps were taken to have the National Park proclaimed a refuge for native

birds and a ranger appointed to guard the reservation. The congress decided to proceed at once with the preparation of a second edition of the 'Check-list of Australian Birds' and elected a committee of 12 members to undertake the work. The officers for the ensuing year include A. F. Basset Hull as president, Dr. J. A. Leach and C. A. Barnard as vice presidents, Z. Gray as hon. treasurer, and W. H. D. Le Souef as hon. general secretary. Dr. Leach was reelected editor of 'The Emu.' The next congress will be held about the first week in October in Western Australia.—T. S. P.

THE Swiss Society for the Study and Protection of Birds held its spring meeting on May 8 and 9 in Basel. The program included an afternoon in the Zoological Gardens, an address on migration at Basel and a social gathering in the evening. An excursion was arranged for the following day to take the members through the St. Jacob Reservation to Birsfelden on the banks of the Rhine and a tour of inspection of the Berlepsch thicket planted for a bird refuge by the Basel Ornithological Society.

The Swiss Society announces an excursion of a week in July or August to the National Park on the lower Engadine. This park established ten or twelve years ago is in the extreme eastern part of Switzerland, in the Canton of Grisons, and includes several mountain valleys and the intervening ridges where wild life of all kinds is carefully protected.

THE year 1920 may be considered the semi-centennial of the discovery of fossil birds in North America since it was in the spring of 1870 that the late Prof. O. C. Marsh published his first descriptions of extinct birds. It is true that some of the specimens had actually been collected prior to 1870, but descriptions of them had not been published except in the case of *Palaeornis struthionoides* Emmons, the avian relationship of which is now considered very doubtful. During the past 50 years about 125 species have been described and most of the type specimens have been figured. The types themselves are preserved in widely separated museums from New England to California and many of the specimens are small and very fragmentary. A suggestion has been made by the Union to the authorities of several museums that each institution which possesses type specimens of fossil birds should make ten sets of casts or plastotypes of such types for exchange with other museums so that each may have a complete series of type material of the fossil birds of the continent. This suggestion has received the approval of several institutions and at least one museum has already had casts made of the types in its collection. It is hoped that similar action will be taken by the others at an early date so that the project may be carried to a successful conclusion.—T. S. P.

A COLLECTION which is a combination of autographs and other samples of the handwriting of ornithologists, now representing about 450 individuals has been brought together by W. L. McAtee with very material aid

from Drs. C. W. Richmond and A. K. Fisher. The use of this collection is available to ornithologists visiting Washington and the services of Mr. McAtee to others who may have original labels or other bits of handwriting which it is desirable to identify. Contributions to the collection will be welcome and exchanges can be arranged with others having similar collections.

In a paper published in 'School Science and Mathematics' entitled 'Bird Study in the Mississippi Valley' Mr. Horace Gunthorp presents an interesting summary of the members of ornithological societies in the various states as well as information on the teaching of ornithology in the schools of the country.

We note that in the A. O. U. Massachusetts leads with 204 members while New York has 123, Pennsylvania 75, District of Columbia 63, and California 50. While in the Cooper Club, California of course leads with 278, Massachusetts, 40, New York 33, and District of Columbia 29. The Wilson Club has its largest membership in Illinois, 66, while Iowa has 51, Nebraska 48, Ohio 41 and New York, 23. The computation was made from the 1919 lists and have no doubt been changed somewhat by those of 1920.

DR. W. H. OSGOOD returned the last week in May from a brief but successful trip to Venezuela. Several hundred birds and mammals were collected chiefly in the vicinity of Lake Maracaibo and in the Sierra de Merida.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, of the Biological Survey, sailed on May 29 for Buenos Aires to conduct investigations on the migratory birds which winter in southern South America. He expects to visit Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and southern Brazil.

MR. JAMES L. PETERS sailed about two weeks earlier, also bound for Argentina, on a collecting trip for the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

IN connection with the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Washington, D. C., this year, the Local Committee plans to hold an exhibit showing the history and development of zoological illustration as applied to birds, including original drawings, paintings and photographs. The pictures, which may be mounted in cards, but not framed, will be exhibited under glass in the Library of Congress (fireproof structure) where in exchange for facilities the exhibit will be held together a month or more. So far the consensus of opinion is that to keep the exhibit within bounds, each artist shall be limited to 6 original drawings or paintings and each photographer to 2 prints. This announcement is intended

as an invitation to all artists and photographers to participate in the exhibit and it is hoped to have a very general response so that the exhibit will worthily represent modern bird portraiture. Pictures need not be sent until fall. Transportation and postal or express insurance charges both to and from the exhibit will be paid when desired, and the safety of the pictures guaranteed while in the hands of the Committee. Communications on the subject may be addressed to W. L. McAtee, Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

THE By-Laws provide that nominations to the classes of Fellows and Members shall be made in writing, signed by three Fellows or Members, and delivered to the Secretary at least three months prior to the Stated Meeting. At present there are no vacancies in the class of Fellows but there will be opportunities for the election of 5 Members at the meeting in November. Nominations should be in the hands of the Secretary not later than August 5 and should be accompanied by a full statement of the qualifications of the candidate including a brief summary of his work and a list of his publications if any. Nomination blanks will be forwarded by the Secretary upon application.

THE Committee on Arrangements for the Meeting of 1920, recently appointed, includes John H. Sage, chairman; T. S. Palmer, secretary; W. L. McAtee, vice chairman; H. C. Oberholser, Frank Bond, Ned Holister and B. H. Swales.